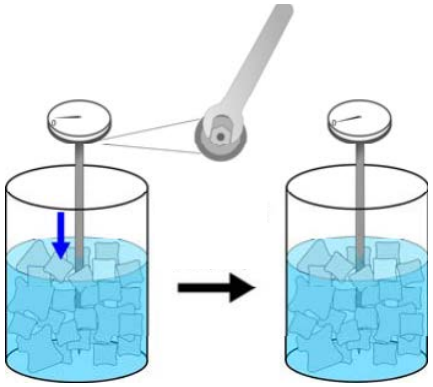
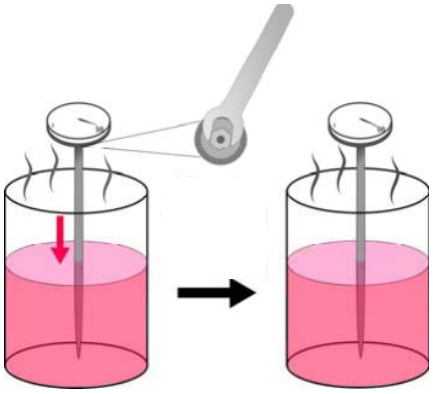
How to CALIBRATE a Metal Stem Thermometer

In order to ensure your probe thermometer is accurate, the thermometer should be calibrated regularly according to the manufacturer's recommendations and after an extreme temperature change or if the unit has been dropped. Thermometers may be calibrated using **ice point method** or **boiling point method.**

Ice Point Method



1) Fill an insulated container (such as a foam cup) with potable crushed ice.
2) Add cold water.
3) Allow time for the mixture to come to 32°F (about 4-5 minutes).
4) Insert the metal stem thermometer into the center of the cup. Make sure the stem of the thermometer is away from the bottom and sides of the container.
5) Hold the thermometer until the temperature stabilizes (the needle will stop moving), then record the temperature.
6) Repeat the procedure to verify results and calibrate as necessary.
7) If the temperature is not 32°F, use pliers on the calibration nut under the top of the thermometer to adjust the temperature to 32°F.



Boiling Point Method

Submerge the sensor into boiling water. For a bi-metallic stemmed thermometer, wait until the needle stops moving then use a small wrench to turn the calibration nut until the thermometer reads 212°F.

NOTE: Accuracy of digital thermometers should be verified using ice point methods steps 1-6 or boiling point method. If inaccurate, the thermometer should be sent back to the manufacture for repair.

COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO
Environmental Health Services
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

http://www.sbcounty.gov/dehs

Rancho Cucamonga (909) 948-5058
San Bernardino (909) 387-4608 Hesperia (760) 995-8154